Memorandum

Agenda Item No. 14(B)1



Date:

December 18, 2007

To:

Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro

and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From:

George M. Burgess

County Man

Subject:

Foreclosure and Mortgage Fraud Prevention Information

At the October 31, 2007 special meeting of the Economic Development and Human Services Committee to discuss housing foreclosures, members expressed the need for additional education on foreclosure prevention. In addition, Vice-Chair Barbara J. Jordan asked staff to explore the possibility of the Property Appraiser including informational flyers regarding mortgage loan products and services.

Staff from the Department of Property Appraisal, Consumer Services, and the Housing Finance Authority met to determine the feasibility of producing an informational insert for homeowners with foreclosure and mortgage fraud problems, including contact numbers and websites for further reference.

The flyer will be included as part of the Property Appraiser's Office mailing of 450,000 homestead exemption renewal notices on December 28, 2007. The mailing will also include a separate insert explaining the four points of the property tax reform referendum on the January 29, 2008 ballot.

Staff estimates that the printing of the foreclosure informational insert will cost \$11,100, plus an additional \$500 to place in the envelopes. The County's 311 will require additional temporary staff answer the anticipated increased call volume for a three week period following the mail out. These additional costs will be covered by the general fund reserve for general publicity.

Cynthia W. Curry

Seffor Advisor to the County Manager